

WEATHERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

Breck Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 3HS
Single-sex (girls all-ability) aged 11-16 and Mixed 6th Form

Headteacher: Mr D A Mackenzie BA (Hons), NPQH, NPQEL

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Approximate number of students on roll: 1590

Admission number: 254

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEAR 7

For admissions to secondary school in the academic year 2024-25, the Local Authority will co-ordinate all admissions arrangements on behalf of Weatherhead High School (Please also see the Local Authority documents 'Secondary Education in Wirral', 'Admission Policies' and 'Scheme for Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements for Maintained Secondary Schools in the Wirral Area' all of which are updated annually and available at: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions>).

Applications will be dealt with in order according to the following criteria:-

- a) Children who are Looked After or previously Looked After. A Looked After child is a child who is i) in the care of a local authority, or ii) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
- b) Children who have a valid medical reason for a specific placement. You must give details on the preference form and this may be checked by a medical officer of the health authority. A letter in support from a senior health care professional will be required as evidence when you submit your preference form. You need to make it clear why only this school is appropriate for your child's medical needs.
- c) Students who have a sibling (including half-sibling or step-sibling living in the same household) on roll at the school when it opens in September 2024.
- d) Children of staff at the school – priority is given to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:-
 - i. Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made
and/or
 - ii. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- e) We will then take account of where your child lives. We will give priority to those students who live nearest to the school. The Authority's computer mapping system, based on Ordnance Survey maps, is used to measure the distance from your home to the school gate nearest to your child's home using the shortest road route, unless it is possible to use a footpath which we consider a safe walking route.

Waiting Lists

A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admissions Criteria. The waiting list will operate for one term after the start of the Autumn term.

Appeals

If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents should contact Wallasey Town Hall (Parental Appeals) for the necessary paperwork. Appeals should be sent back to the Appeals Panel at Wallasey Town Hall no later

than 4 weeks from receiving the letter of refusal. The decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Governors.

The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to sibling connections or place of residence.

Sixth Form Admissions Policy

This Admissions Policy applies to students seeking admission to Year 12 at Weatherhead High School and covers admission into Year 13 for those wishing to complete their studies at the school – September 2024.

Applications for Year 12 must be completed using the school application form, by the date specified by the school. Applications received after this deadline will be placed on a waiting list. For internal applicants, the Director of Sixth Form will seek feedback from the Year Leader and subject teachers to check suitability for students' course choices. All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements.

For external applicants, a reference/report from their previous school will be sought to check suitability for Post 16 study and their preferred subject choices. Students will be invited for interview as appropriate. Preferred learning pathways and course choices are discussed. Following the interview stage, a letter will be sent to the applicant confirming the decision made regarding a place in Year 12. All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements.

Students holding conditional offers will have their place confirmed following receipt of GCSE results in the summer. Guidance will be given to students who wish to consider a change of subject following receipt of GCSE results.

Admission to Year 12:

The majority of our students in Year 11 continue with their studies into our school Sixth Form. The school will usually have a number of places available for external students who wish to join Year 12.

1. Students who currently study at Weatherhead in Year 11 are given priority for places; however, the school is proud of its diverse intake and we welcome applications from all students under the age of 18 for whom we have suitable courses. We regularly admit students currently attending other schools and in these cases, admission is contingent on the receipt of supportive references and the production of GCSE (or equivalent) examination certificates.
2. Application forms should be submitted by the deadline on the form. Recruitment and information evenings are held in the Autumn Term to assist students in this process. We cannot guarantee that places will be offered when an application is late. External admissions interviews take place in February/ March and all offers are made by Easter for places to be taken up in September. Application forms and prospectuses can be obtained from the Sixth Form reception by telephoning 0151 631 4401 or emailing ask6f@weatherheadhigh.co.uk. You can also visit our website at www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk.
3. In order to obtain a place, there are minimum entry requirements. These are:
 - a) **If you are applying for A level courses** you must achieve at least the Grades or equivalent levels in your GCSEs as detailed in the Sixth Form Prospectus and have the correct subject and grades to take that course.
 - b) **In order to take Childcare and Education** we expect a Grade or equivalent level in English plus 1 other GCSE as detailed in the Sixth Form Prospectus.
 - c) **All** applicants must meet the minimum Grade requirements for the subjects chosen to study, as stated in the prospectus.
 - d) A supportive reference confirming suitability at Post-16 study and the preferred subject choices.
4. If, having gained your GCSE results, you have fallen short of the minimum requirements; you are advised to call us for further advice or seek advice and support from our team on GCSE results day in August.

5. All Sixth Form students are expected to participate in an extensive enrichment programme that includes Personal Development sessions and Higher Education and careers advice.
6. A
 - i. Applicants must have demonstrated in Year 11, good attendance and behaviour and a commitment to their studies.
 - ii. Applicants will be expected to accept the standards of dress and conduct applicable upon admission to Weatherhead Sixth Form.
 B Where attendance/behaviour or commitment has been unsatisfactory, the school must be satisfied that:
 - i. The absence/behaviour/commitment has not had such an impact on the candidate's academic development that he/she would be unlikely to cope with the demands of the course applied for.
 - ii. The pattern of absence/behaviour/commitment will not continue into the Sixth Form.
7. Conditional offers are made in writing on the basis of predicted GCSE Grades/Levels. Candidates are asked to confirm their intention to take up the place offered, either in writing or by telephone. Once you have accepted an offer, your place is secure and we are committed to you *provided that you then meet the minimum requirements*. You make your final course choices in September on Induction Day, when you have your GCSE results. This is done in consultation with your Form Tutor.
9. By accepting a place at Weatherhead High School Sixth Form, you agree that:
 - a) You have read, understand and accept the Admissions Policy.
 - b) You have read, understand and will abide by the terms of the Sixth Form Charter.
10. In some cases, students will be offered a place for a probationary period. This trial period may be offered for a range of reasons. Students who are offered a trial period will be notified in writing, with the conditions of probation.
11. Where applications for a place are declined, students will be informed in writing and reasons will be given in line with the Admissions Policy. Students who have had their applications rejected have the right to appeal against the decision. In such a situation, a formal letter must be sent to the Director of Sixth Form stating why it is felt that the decision is unfair and providing details of any mitigating circumstances. This must be done within ten working days of receiving formal notification that the application has been declined. If the decision not to admit is upheld, you may then choose to make a formal complaint.
12. **External Students**
 - External students are offered a place in the Sixth Form on the basis of a satisfactory reference/report from their previous school and following discussion about their suitability with a member of the Senior Leadership or Sixth Form Management team.
 - The school is able to make sufficient offers of places to lead to the admission of approximately 50 external students. After this number of offers has been made, the school reserves the right to place further applicants on a waiting list. The actual number of offers made is judged on the previous year's admission number and the applications received from internal students who have priority.
 - In some circumstances, the school may be able to make offers of places above these thresholds and when other applicants have been placed on the waiting list if there is availability on particular courses. This will be dependent on the numbers of applications for particular courses in each year.

Where the number of eligible external applicants for a course of study exceeds the places available then admissions will be determined in accordance with the following priority of admissions criteria:

- Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act.
- Children who have a valid medical or social reason. Supporting evidence from a doctor, social worker or psychologist is essential if admittance to the school is to be made under the criteria for special medical or social circumstances. Such evidence must set out the specific reasons why Weatherhead High School is the most appropriate school.
- The overall strength of the student's profile, based on estimated grades and a satisfactory reference or report; the profile requirements will be determined annually in the light of applications received.

- The contribution the student could make to the overall life of the school, based on the evidence available from the application, reference and interview.
- In exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher may use his/her discretion in making offers to individual students who do not meet the required criteria, where extenuating factors apply.

Conditional offers will be made for a place at the school. Once an offer has been made the school will aim to allow students to follow their first-choice combination of subjects requested at interview. Where this is impossible, for reasons such as timetable clashes or over-subscription of particular subjects, guidance will be offered about suitable alternatives.

Admission to Year 13:

The majority of students in Year 12 continue with their studies into Year 13, dependent upon the entry criteria outlined below.

All offers of a place in Year 13 will be made on condition students meet the school entry requirements laid out below:

- All students wishing to complete their studies in Year 13 must achieve a favourable report in relation to progress in their chosen subject, which will include, supportive comments from relevant subject teachers confirming suitability for continued study at Advanced Level.
- Students who do not meet the entry requirement into Year 13 will be given guidance about a change of pathway and relevant courses available.

3rd Year Sixth Form:

Admission to 3rd Year Sixth Form will only be due to exceptional circumstances eg either medical or a student who has shown significant commitment over a 2-year period of study.